All island survey of yam weevil (*Palaeopus costicollis* Mshl.) in Jamaica

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[Abstract]
Yam exported to the United States of America from Jamaica are required to be fumigated against yam weevil (*Palaeopus costicollis Mshl*), a quarantine pest, using methyl bromide. As stipulated by the Montreal Protocol to which Jamaica became a signatory in 1993, this fumigant will be banned for use in 2010. For developing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme an all island survey was required, which took place between November 1999 and September 2000. The objectives were to determine the farmers' knowledge of the pest, to identify yam farming practices and to determine the presence/absence of the yam weevil. One hundred and forty-three yam farms were visited. The pest was identified in all parishes and was found primarily on the heads of eight yam varieties: yellow yam (*Dioscorea cayenensis)* followed by Negro, Lucea, Mozella (*D. rotundata*), Sweet, St. Vincent, Tau, Renta (*D.alata*). It was not found on Acom tubers (D.bulbifera) a wild variety. The pest was reported to occur on over ripe tubers; however, damage was not economic. Ginger (*Zingiber officinale)* and sweet potato (*Ipomea batatas*) were identified as alternate hosts. Yam weevil appears to be polyphagous. Intercropping, harvesting before yams are overripe, fallowing, crop rotation and the use of treated minisetts as clean planting material were identified as possible tools for an IPM programme for yam weevil control.